

Hon. R. C. Selden from his affectionate
Nephew Thomas S. Vaill

MINUTES

OF THE

SYNOD OF CHICAGO,

—AT ITS—

SESSION,

DIXON, ILLINOIS, OCTOBER 15, 1857.

GALESBURG:

J. H. SHERMAN BOOK AND JOB PRINTER,

1857:

Ms. A. 9. 2. 27-37

MINUTES

OF THE

SYNOD OF CHICAGO,

—AT ITS—


SESSION,

DIXON, ILLINOIS, OCTOBER 15, 187.

GALESBURG:

J. H. SHERMAN BOOK AND JOB PRINTER,

.....
1857:



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

285.1
F929C6
1857

122.4757

DIXON, ILLINOIS, 7 o'clock, P. M.,

Thursday, October 15, 1857.

The Synod of Chicago met according to adjournment, in the Presbyterian Church of Dixon, and was constituted with prayer by the Moderator, Rev. S. T. WILSON. After which on account of the extreme inclemency of the night, Synod adjourned till to-morrow morning, 8 1-2 o'clock.

Closed with prayer.

FRIDAY MORN., 8 1-2 o'clock, Oct. 16, 1857.

Synod met and was opened with prayer.

PRESENT—MINISTERS FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF SCHUYLER:

THOMAS. S. VAILL,	ISAAC N. CANDEE, D. D.
THOMAS. M. WALKER,	JOHN H. NEVIUS,
ROBERT C. MATTHEWS,	JAMES T. BLISS,
BENJAMIN C. SWAN,	HEZEKIAH HANSON,
PRESTON W. THOMPSON,	JOHN MARSHALL,
JOHN C. KING.	

ABSENT.

JAMES M. CHASE,	SAMUEL B. SMITH,
JOSEPH WORRELL,	T. P. W. MAGRUDER,
WILLIAM McCANDLISH,	J. J. GRAY,
ITHAMAR PILLSBURY,	WILLIAM TOWNLEY,
JOSEPH McCONNELL,	EPHRAIM K. LYNN,
DAVID MONFORT, D. D.	CYRUS B. BRISTOL.

PRESENT—RULING ELDERS:

JOHN M. WALKER,	from the Congregation of Fountain Green.
A. C. GREGG,	" Monmouth.
WILLIAM OGILVIE,	" Carthage.

171146

J. D. BELVILLE,	"	Prairie City.
S. H. McCANDLESS,	"	Hopewell.
CHARLES HAYS, M. D.	"	Macomb.
R. S. PATTERSON,	"	Galesburg.
J. C. STEWART,	"	North Henderson.
WM. W. McCANDLESS,	"	Aledo.
JOHN CLARK,	"	Camp Creek.
J. D. McMILLAN,	"	Huntsville.
J. D. CAMPBELL,	"	Shiloh.
D. A. VANNICE,	"	Bushnell.
WM. PROVINE,	"	Vermont.

PRESENT—MINISTERS FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF ROCK RIVER :

SAMUEL CLELAND,	A. H. LACKEY,
WILLIAM C. MASON,	CHARLES AXTELL,
SAMUEL T. WILSON,	GEORGE S. INGLIS,
JOSEPH S. DICKEY,	C. LEAVENWORTH,
WILLIAM W. HARSHA,	DAVID KELLY,
JACOB COON,	JOSIAH MILLIGAN,
A. W. LOOMIS,	J. C. BARR,
ANDREW KOLB.	

ABSENT.

P. R. VANATTA,	E. W. LARKIN,
GEORGE STEBBINS.	

PRESENT—RULING ELDERS :

GEORGE McKEE, from the Congregation of Fulton City,	
JOHN NEAL,	" Rock Run.
JOHN AMBRUSTER,	" 1st German Ch., Galena.
J. M. BARTON,	" Heathland.
GEORGE SHARER,	" Dixon.
DAVID ROBINSON,	" Princeton.
THOMAS EWING,	" Freeport.
S. A. CORBET,	" Malden.
THOMAS FOSTER,	" Galena.

PRESENT—MINISTERS FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF CHICAGO.

RICHARD K. TODD,	C. R. FISK,
ALLEN C. MILLER,	WILLIAM P. CARSON,
ROBERT G. THOMPSON,	H. B. BURR,
JOHN ELLIOTT,	GEORGE F. GOODHUE.

ABSENT.

JOHN USTICK,
E. F. CHESTER,
JOHN FLEMING,
E. BROWN,
JOHN McKINNEY,
H. A. BROWN,
S. JEWITT,
J. L. LYON,
SAMUEL SWAN.

J. S. HENDERSON,
J. S. LORD,
R. W. HENRY,
J. McCONOUGHY,
MOSES ORDWAY,
R. A. BROWN,
JOHN WEITZELL,
SAMUEL N. EVANS,

PRESENT—RULING ELDERS.

R. JACKSON, from the Congregation of	Rockford.
CHARLES A. SPRING,	" S. Ch. Chicago.
A. H. HOGUE,	" N. Ch. Chicago.
J. PRICE,	" Lane.
ENOS TOMPKINS,	" Belvidere.

Rev. Richard K. Todd was chosen Moderator, and Rev. T. S. Vaill and Charles Axtell, Clerks.

The Minutes of the last meeting of Synod were read.

Absentees from the last meeting of Synod, being called on, gave reasons for absence which were sustained.

The Rev. N. L. Rice, D. D. of the Synod of Missouri, Rev. N. P. Heath of the Illinois Conference of the M. E. Church, Rev. J. T. Mason of the Rock River Baptist Association, Rev. J. R. McAllister of the Associate Reformed Synod of Ill. and Rev. L. Gano, of the Synod of Albany (N. S.) being present, were invited to sit as Corresponding members.

A communication from the western Ex. Com. of the Board of Missions was read, and ordered to be placed upon the docket.

The Moderator announced the following Committees, viz:

On Bills and Overtures—S. T. Wilson, R. G. Thompson, Geo. F. Goodhue, W. C. Mason, R. C. Matthews, J. C. King, J. D. Belville, R. Jackson, J. Price.

Judicial Committee—C. Leavenworth, J. Coon, C. R. Fisk, W. P. Carson, J. Marshall, J. H. Nevius, A. C. Gregg, D. Robinson, A. H. Hogue.

On Presbyterian Records—SCHUYLER: S. Cleland, J. Elliott, R. Jackson.

" " ROCK RIVER: H. B. Burr, J. Marshall,
R. S. Patterson.

" " CHICAGO: B. C. Swan, D. Kelly, John
Neal.

On Devotional Exercises—W. W. Harsha, A. W. Loomis, George Sharer.

Narrative to the Assembly—J. Coon, T. M. Walker, A. H. Hogue.

On Report of the Directors of the N. W. Theological Seminary—I. N. Candee, D. D., W. C. Mason, G. F. Goodhue, and Elders Provine, Robinson and Tompkins.

Com. of Finance—C. A. Spring, John Clark and R. C. Matthews.

To Nominate Directors for Theo. Sem.—R. G. Thompson, I. N. Candee, A. W. Loomis.

Minutes of Gen. Assembly—W. W. Harsha, R. C. Matthews, J. D. Belleville, H. B. Burr, A. H. Hogue.

On Leave of Absence—P. W. Thompson, R. Jackson, J. Price.

On Missions—R. G. Thompson, B. C. Swan, D. Kelly, W. McCandless, C. A. Spring.

On Church Extension—A. Cleland, A. H. Hogue, R. G. Thompson.

The Statistical Reports of the Presbyteries of Schuyler and Rock River were read by the Stated Clerks of those Presbyteries, and the Report of the Presbytery of Chicago was by permission postponed until to-morrow morning.

On motion of Rev. P. W. Thompson, the Communication from the Western Ex. Com. of the Board of Missions, was taken from the Docket and referred to the Com. on Missions.

On motion, the presenting of the Narratives of the State of Religion, from the several Presbyteries, was made the order of the day for 9 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

Synod proceeded to the choice of a place for their next meeting, when Rock Island was chosen as the place; and it was determined that Synod hold its next Stated Meeting at Rock Island on the third Thursday of October 1858, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

On motion Res. That the sermon, being properly the opening sermon of Synod, be delivered at 7 o'clock this evening.

The Stated Clerk presented to Synod the Report of the Directors of the N. W. Theo. Seminary. Said report was referred to a Com. of two from each Presbytery. *Vide supra.*

The Report of the Treasurer of Synod was read, and referred to the Com. on Finance. *Vide supra.*

The Report of the Com. appointed at the last meeting of Synod, "to

inquire regarding the establishment of a Periodical within our bounds," was received, and the Com. discharged.

The Sermon on Systematic Beneficence was dispensed with, owing to the absence of Rev. Mr. Henry, who had been appointed to that service—the Alternate being unprepared.

A Resolution regarding the appointment of a North Western Ex. Com. of Missions, (page 13, printed minutes—1856) postponed to this meeting, was taken up, and on motion was made the order of the day for 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Rev. R. C. Matthews was appointed to deliver the Missionary Sermon at the next meeting of Synod. Rev. W. P. Carson was appointed Alternate.

A Resolution "regarding the establishment of Institutions of Learning other than Theo. Seminaries," postponed to this meeting, was taken up, and was made the order of the day for 2 o'clock this afternoon.

Synod took recess till 2 o'clock, P. M.

After recess Synod met.

Rev. J. Ustick, Rev. J. C. Henderson, and Rev. P. R. Vanatta appeared in Synod and gave reasons for late attendance, which were sustained.

Rev. Mr. Crane of the Synod of Pittsburg, and Rev. D. V. Smock of the Synod of Southern Iowa, being present, were invited to sit as Corresponding members.

Synod took up the order of the day, to wit, the resolution regarding the patronage and endowment of Institutions of Learning by our Church Courts, which resolution, after discussion, was unanimously adopted, and is as follows:

Resolved—That the establishment, endowment and patronage by Church Courts, of Institutions of Learning other than Theological Seminaries, calls for special watchfulness and prayer on the part of those so engaged, that the continuous influence and ultimate results of these institutions may be in accordance with the constitution of the Church, and evidently for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom.

The Com. on Devotional Exercises made a report which was approved.

The order of the day for 3 o'clock, was taken up, and after discussion, the subject was indefinitely postponed.

Rev. R. W. Henry, Rev. S. N. Evans and Thomas Foster, Ruling Elder from the Church of Galena, appeared in Synod and gave reasons for late attendance, which were sustained.

Synod had recess till 7 o'clock, P. M.

After recess Synod met and heard the opening sermon from Rev. S. T.

Wilson, the former Moderator, from Luke 15:10 "*Likewise I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.*"

After which the Synod adjourned till 8 1-2 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

Concluded with prayer.

SATURDAY, 8 1-2 A. M., Oct. 17, 1857.

Synod met. The first half hour was spent in devotional exercises.—The roll was called and the minutes of yesterday's session were read and approved.

Rev. James Smith, D. D. and Rev. E. F. Chester, appeared in Synod and gave reasons for late attendance, which were sustained.

The Narratives of the state of Religion within the bounds of the several Presbyteries, were read by their Stated Clerks.

The Judicial Com. reported Judicial Case No. 1—as follows: "The Judicial Com. would respectfully report Judicial Case No. 1, being the complaint of E. N. Sawyer and others, of acts and decisions of Schuyler Presbytery in the case remanded last fall. While a majority of the Com. think that the complainants are barred on account of limitation of time, yet as complainants supposed they were in time, the Com. would recommend that the complaint be taken up and issued according to the Book of Discipline."

Also Judicial Case No. 2, being a complaint of William McCandless and others, of a decision of Schuyler Presbytery, known on its records as Case No. 2. The Com. find the complaint in order, and recommend that it be taken up and issued according to the Book.

Case No. 2, was placed on the Docket.

On motion Res. That Synod forthwith proceed to the consideration of Judicial Case No. 1.

The Moderator in due form enjoined the members to regard their high character as a Court of Jesus Christ.

The parties in the case being called on to state whether they had complied with the recommendation of the last Synod, (page 13, printed minutes) replied that efforts had been made in accordance with that advice, but had failed.

Pending the proceedings in this case,

The Com. on Finance reported, That they had examined the report of the Treasurer of Synod, and found the same correct. Also that they had received the regular tax of \$5. per Presbytery.

Report accepted and approved, and funds paid over to Treasurer of Synod.

Rev. Samuel M. Wilson, of the Synod of Ohio, being present, was invited to sit as a Cor. member.

The Com. on Devotional Exercises reported as follows :

Res.—That Synod spend the hour between 3 and 4 o'clock this afternoon in devotional exercises, in order following :

Psalmody, by the Moderator. Prayer by Elder C. A. Spring. Address by Rev. Dr. Smith. Prayer by Elder Thomas Foster. Address by Rev. J. C. Barr. Close with psalmody by the Moderator. Adopted.

Synod took recess till 2 o'clock, P. M.

After recess, Synod met.

The Com. on the Report of Directors of the N. W. Theo. Sem. presented a Report which was accepted and docketed.

Synod resumed the consideration of Judicial Case No. 1. Pending proceedings thereon,

The Com. to whom was referred the Communication from the Board of Missions, reported. The Report was accepted and adopted, and is as follows :

The Com. would respectfully report :

That in view of the low state of piety in our Churches and a lack of a proper spirit of christian liberality—in view of the sufferings and self denials which our Missionaries at home and abroad, are called to endure in the cause of Christ—in view also of the financial pressure of the times, affecting so deeply the pecuniary resources of the Boards of our Church : therefore

Res. 1—That Sabbath, the 15th day of November be appointed by this Synod, specially as a day of prayer to the Great Head of the Church, that he would revive his work, and shed abroad in the hearts of our people a spirit of increased liberality ; and that on said day a sermon be preached by the Ministers of our several Churches, suitable to the occasion, and a collection taken up which shall be divided equally between our Boards of Domestic and Foreign Missions.

Res. 2—That the Saturday previous to said Sabbath, be observed by the churches, as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer, in view of the present state of things in relation to our Missionaries.

Synod adjourned until 8 1-2 o'clock, on Monday morning.

Concluded with prayer.

MONDAY, 8 1-2 o'clock, A. M., Oct. 19, 1857.

Synod met and spent half an hour in devotional exercises.

The Minutes of Saturday's Session were read and corrected.

Rev. Henry I. Coe of the Synod of Missouri, Cor. Secretary of the

Church Extension Com. being present, was invited to sit as a Cor. member.

Res. That Bro. Coe be invited to address Synod on the subject of Church Extension, at 10 o'clock this forenoon.

The Com. to examine the Records of Rock River Presbytery reported, approving the Records as far as written. Report adopted.

Synod resumed the unfinished business, viz: Judicial Case No. 1.—Progress was made in the reading of the testimony in the case.

The hour of 10 o'clock having arrived, Synod was addressed by Mr. Coe in a forcible appeal in behalf of the cause of Church Extension.

On motion a Com. was appointed to bring in a report expressive of the views and feelings of Synod in relation to that department of benevolence. See *List of Committees*.

Synod resumed the unfinished business; and further progress was made in the reading of the testimony in the case.

On motion the reading was suspended for the purpose of considering the Report of the Com. to whom was referred the Report of the Directors of the Theo. Seminary. After some remarks it was,

Res.—That the consideration of said Report be the order of the day for 2 o'clock this afternoon.

Dr. Candee, Treasurer of Synod, stated that the Missionary collection taken up after the Sermon last evening, and now in his hands, amounted to \$25.36.

Recess till 2 o'clock P. M.

2 o'clock, P. M.

Synod met, and entered upon the consideration of the order of the day. The Report having been again read, it was moved that the report be adopted. Pending the discussion of this motion the Synod took recess until after divine service.

After recess, Synod met.

The Com. on the Records of the Presbytery of Chicago, made a report which was accepted and the Records approved with the following exceptions:

1. The call for the *Pro re rata* meeting, noticed on pages 125, and 126, did not state the particular business of the meeting.
2. The Elders signing the call were both from the same Church. The Book of Dis. requires that they be of different Churches, Ch. X, Sec. 10. Also on page 125, the time and place of the *pro re rata* meeting was not recorded.

Synod resumed the unfinished business, viz: The Report of the Com. on the Report of the Directors of the N. W. Theo. Seminary.

Pending this discussion, Synod adjourned till 8 1-2 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

Concluded with prayer.

TUESDAY MORNING, 8 1-2 o'clock, Oct. 20, 1857.

Synod met, and spent half an hour in devotional exercises. The minutes of yesterday's Session were read and approved.

The Com. on Church Extension made a report, which was accepted and adopted, and is as follows :

Res. 1.—That Synod entirely and cordially approve of the object and appointment of the Church Extension Com. and would earnestly commend that cause to the sympathies, the prayers and the contributions of our people.

2. That, in view of the present pecuniary pressure, crippling and embarrassing commercial men who have hitherto been counted wealthy, and proved liberal—while Synod would commend this, with other benevolent objects to all our Churches, we would especially commend it to the contributions of such Churches as are not so immediately subject to commercial pressures.

3. That in the Month of January, the time appointed by Synod to attend to the objects of this Committee, our Ministers and Churches be and hereby are charged to do what they can to supply the pressing wants of that cause.

The Com. on the Records of Schuyler Presbytery reported, approving the Records. Report adopted.

The Com. on Bills and Overtures reported Overture No. 1. The Report was accepted and laid upon the table.

The Com. to prepare a Narrative on the state of Religion within the bounds of the Synod, made a report which was accepted, and the Narrative adopted and ordered to be published.

The Stated Clerk of Synod presented the Statistical Report to the Gen. Assembly, which was adopted.

The Com. on Leave of Absence reported that leave of absence had been granted to Bros. John McMillan, J. Ustick, Wm. Provine, W. P. Carson, H. Hanson, John Clark and Dr. Hays.

The Report was adopted and the Com. discharged.

On motion Synod resumed the unfinished business, being the Report on the Theo. Seminary. A substitute for this report was offered by Rev. Mr. Axtell, which being discussed, was amended and adopted, and is as follows :

Whereas it is the deliberate opinion of this Synod, that the success of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary of the North West, now located at Chicago, is of very great importance to the interests of the Presbyterian Church ; And whereas it is our opinion that to its success, the united and liberal support of our Ministers and Churches is absolutely essential ; And whereas we are convinced that such united and liberal support can be better secured by placing the Seminary under the almost entire control of the General Assembly. Therefore

Resolved, 1.—That this Synod, concurring with the Synods of Cincinnati, Indiana, Northern Indiana, Wisconsin and Iowa, or a constitutional majority of said

Synods, does hereby transfer to the said Assembly all the property in and control over the Presbyterian Theological Seminary of the North West, possessed by the said Synods.

2.—That this Synod, concurring with the Synods aforesaid or a majority of the same, does hereby consent that a new Act of Incorporation be obtained from the proper authorities of the State within which the Seminary may be located; that a Board of Directors shall be elected by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church aforesaid, who shall nominate the Trustees to be named in the Act of Incorporation, and shall appoint their successors in office; and does hereby authorize and direct the present Board of Directors to instruct the present Board of Trustees to convey to the new Board of Trustees to be so constituted, all lands, tenements, funds, moneys and other property, real and personal, now held or which may hereafter be held by the present Board of Trustees, in trust for the sole use of the said Seminary.

3.—That this tender of the Seminary be made to the next General Assembly, and with the request that that body—the nominating power of Professors and Directors reserved in the hands of the Directory—elect Professors so soon as the funds of the Seminary shall be in a condition to warrant the opening of the Institution.

4.—That this action is not to be construed as designing any disrespect to the Professors already elected, but only as a measure essential under existing circumstances, to the success of the Institution.

5.—That a copy of these resolutions properly authenticated by the Moderator and Stated Clerk of Synod, be sent to the President of the Board of Directors, and to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, to be laid before those bodies.

On the adoption of the above substitute, a call was made for the Yeas and Nays, which being sustained by the Synod, were ordered to be recorded.

Yeas—Vaill, Matthews, King, Nevius, Cleland, Dickey, Harsha, Coon, Loomis, Kolb, Axtell, Inglis, Milligan, Barr, Miller, Fisk, Carson, Henderson, Smith, S. H. McCandless, Campbell, Vannice, Neal, Robinson, Foster, Spring, Hogue, Price, Tompkins.—29.

Nays—T. M. Walker, P. W. Thompson, Candee, Bliss, Henry, Mason, Wilson, Lackey, Kelly, Vanatta, Todd, R. G. Thompson, Elliott, Goodhue, Evans, Jackson, Gregg, Belville, J. M. Walker.—19.

Synod took recess till 2 o'clock, P. M.

2 o'clock, P. M.

Synod met. The Com. to nominate Directors for the N. W. Theo. Seminary, made a report which was accepted, amended and adopted; and Rev. R. C. Matthews, of the Presbytery of Schuyler; Rev. S. T. Wilson, of the Presbytery of Rock River; and Elder C. A. Spring, of the Presbytery of Chicago were re-elected Directors of the Seminary.

The following resolutions, relative to the Seminary property at Chicago, were unanimously adopted, viz:

Resolved, 1.—That in the judgment of this Synod, from the position which, in their view, the Theo Sem. of the N. West now occupies, it is the duty of the Board of Directors to instruct the Board of Trustees, to tender to the owners of the property donated to the Seminary on conditions of *honor*, which conditions it is now impracticable to fulfil, the title deeds by which that property is held.

2.—That Synod, deeply convinced of the desirableness and importance of establishing the Seminary where it has already been located, would respectfully request the generous friends who have made these donations, to prolong the time for the fulfilment of these conditions, to afford an opportunity of extricating the enterprise from the embarrassments with which it has been unfortunately encumbered, if they should deem this to be consistent with their interests and duty.

3.—That the Synods with which we act in this matter, be notified without delay, by the Stated Clerk, of the whole order we have taken in relation to it.

Overture No. 1 was taken from the table, with the Report of the Com. thereon, which on motion, were referred to a Com. of three members of the Presbytery of Chicago to be appointed by the Moderator, and to report at the next meeting of Synod. The Moderator appointed on this Com. Revs. S. N. Evans, J. S. Henderson and C. R. Fisk.

The following resolution was adopted :

Whereas it is our sincere desire to unite the whole North West in a hearty and harmonious co-operation in the endowment and management of the Theo. Seminary now located in Chicago: Therefore,

Resolved,—That in compliance with the request of the Board of Directors of said Seminary, this Synod cordially admit and receive to a participation in its control and direction, the Synods of Missouri, Upper Missouri and Southern Iowa, or either of them, provided they express a desire to enter into such union.

Leave of absence was granted to R. Tompkins, Vanatta, Foster, T. M. Walker, J. M. Walker, Campbell and Bliss.

On motion Synod resumed the consideration of Judicial Case No. 1.

Having heard all the papers read, and all the testimony in the case, Synod took recess until 6 1-2 o'clock, P. M.

6 1-2 o'clock, P. M.

Synod met. Elder Price had leave of absence from the remaining sessions of Synod.

The Com. on the Minutes of the Gen. Assembly, reported that they had nothing to bring before Synod. Report accepted and Com. discharged.

Synod resumed the Judicial Case. The complainants were heard, and the original defendant; when Synod adjourned until 8 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

Concluded with prayer.

WEDNESDAY, 8 o'clock A. M., Oct. 21, 1857.

Synod met. The first half hour was spent in devotional services.

On motion an assessment of fifty cents was collected from each member present, to defray the expense of publishing the Minutes of the present Session. Sixteen dollars were collected. The money was paid over to the Stated Clerk; who was directed to procure the publication of as many copies, as the funds in hand will allow, and forward them to the members of Synod.

Resolved—That the Presbyterial Assessment be increased from five to twelve dollars per annum.

Synod resumed the unfinished business. The lower Judicatory whose action was complained of, presented the grounds of their decision.

The complainants and the original party were heard again briefly, by way of explanation.

Elder Robinson and Rev. Mr. Henderson had leave of absence.

Synod had recess till 1 1-2 o'clock, P. M.

1 1-2 o'clock, P. M.

Synod met. The members of the Judicatory whose action was complained of, having retired from the house, the members of the Synod expressed their views in the case. The vote being taken in due form, a majority was found not to sustain the complaint. A Com. of three, appointed by the Moderator, consisting of R. G. Thompson, S. T. Wilson and C. A. Spring, brought in a minute expressive of the judgment of Synod in this case, which being amended, was adopted, viz:

The Com. appointed to prepare a minute expressive of the judgment of Synod in Judicial Case No. 1, would report—That after a full and careful hearing of the whole testimony and the original parties, there seems to have been no sufficient ground for criminal prosecution: Therefore,

Res.—That Synod again renew and enforce with all authority its former recommendation to the original parties in the case, to settle their difficulties in a spirit of mutual forbearance and christian forgiveness.

On motion Judicial Case No. 2 was taken from the Docket, with the report of the Judicial Com. thereupon, recommending that the complaint be taken up and issued according to the Book of Discipline. The Report was adopted.

The Moderator enjoined the Synod to regard their high character as a Court of Jesus Christ.

After calm consideration, the following resolution was adopted by Synod as a final expression of their views in this case:

Res.—As the judgment of this Synod, that as a constitutional effect of their re-

cent action in the case of Complaint of Rev. J. C. King and others, Mr. O. M. Hoagland is entitled to all the privileges of the church, and to exercise his office as a Ruling Elder of the Hopewell Church; and that therefore the Judicial Case No. 2 be dismissed.

The following was unanimously passed :

Res.—That the Synod return their hearty thanks to the citizens of Dixon for their cordial hospitality to its members, during its protracted Sessions in this city ; and to the Methodist Episcopal Church for the use of their commodious and spacious house of worship.

A resolution to elect a Permanent Clerk was postponed until the next meeting of Synod, on account of our present small attendance.

Rev. J. C. King gave notice to Synod of his purpose to complain to the Gen. Assembly, of the decision of Synod in Judicial Cases No. 1 and 2.

The Minutes of the entire Sessions of Synod were read, corrected and approved.

Synod adjourned to meet in the first Presbyterian Church, Rock Island, on the third Thursday,—21st day,—of October, 1858, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with singing, prayer, and the

Apostolical Benediction.

Signed,

RICH'D K. TODD, *Mod'r.*

THO'S. S. VAILL, }
CHA'S. AXTELL, } *Clerks.*

Minutes attested by

I. N. CANDEE,

Stated Clerk of Synod.

APPENDIX.

Narrative on the state of religion within the bounds of the Synod of Chicago during the year.

Synod would in the first place record with gratitude to the Great Head of the Church the fact, that while death has called away one and another of the watchmen on the walls of Zion throughout the church at large, the lives of the members of this Synod, with one or two exceptions, have been preserved, and ability given to labor in their respective portions of the Lord's vineyard; also that the number of its members has considerably increased, during the same period; also that several new churches have been gathered and organized, and a few houses of worship in different localities erected and dedicated to the Christian's God.

Most of our churches have enjoyed the stated means of grace during the year and have increased in membership to a greater or less extent, mainly however on certificate from the older sections of the country. The existence of Sabbath Schools and Bible Classes, of Weekly Prayer Meetings and Monthly Concerts, and of regular contributions to the benevolent Boards of our church is generally reported. Some mercy drops have fallen on a few of the thirty hills of Zion within our bounds, refreshing the hearts of Christians, and stimulating to more fervent prayer and earnest effort for the conversion of sinners; but we are unable to report any copious outpourings of the Spirit of God at any point within our bounds during the year. A good attendance however on the preached word is common, and in many cases an increasing attendance and serious attention, giving promise by the divine blessing of a coming and gracious harvest of souls. Though the number of our churches is increasing rapidly, yet much land remains to be possessed—many points, owing to the rapid increase of population, where we ought to have churches organized, were men and means at our command. The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few.

Our churches, with few exceptions, enjoy peace and harmony within, but not many of them it is believed are favored as the birthplace of souls. The spirit of the world seems to have pervaded them to a lamentable extent, and many professors of religion can hardly be distinguished from the non-professing around them. So many facilities offer in the west for the accumulation of property, that many of the professed disciples of Christ forget their high calling, and descend into the arena with the men of the world for earthly treasures and earthly honors. Few are sighing and crying for the desolations of Zion and for the miseries of the wicked that shall come upon them. The presence of such a fearful amount of iniquity on every hand has blunted their moral and religious sensibilities, and they cease to resist the tide that is sweeping them away. It may be that the terrible revulsion that is taking place in the commercial interests of the country, will by the blessing of God, lead many to reflection and open their eyes to see the dangers of the world to which they are exposed, and the need of a closer walk with God in order to their safety, usefulness and enjoyment. Sound evangelical instruction is not wanting it is believed, to our people, but the word preached does not profit many, not being mixed with faith in them that hear it. The Gospel must be preached with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven, ere the inner life of the church can be restored to health, and her spiritual pulse beat with energy. In order to this, christians must recognise and act upon the solemn truth taught by the Prophet Ezekiel; "Thus saith the Lord God: I will yet for this be inquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them." Nothing but prayer, effectual, fervent, believing, persevering prayer, will open the windows of heaven, and cause the showers of grace to descend, and give the church times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. Restraining prayer before God on the part both of ministers and people weakens the vital energies of the church, and induces barrenness and death. If we would see our beloved Zion arise and shine—if we would see the glory of the Lord rise upon her—if we would see her lengthen her cords and strengthen her stakes—break forth on the right hand and on the left—ministers, and elders, and private christians, must all return to the Lord with weeping and supplication, saying, Spare thy people, and give not thine heritage to reproach; cast us not off, and take not thy Holy Spirit from us. Restore unto us the joy of thy salvation; and uphold us with thy free Spirit.—Then will we teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

By order of Synod,

RICH'D K. TODD,

Moderator



